

Growing Coalition in Opposition to House Bill 4561

September 14, 2011

Dear Lawmakers,

Energy bills are the second-highest cost of home ownership, next to the mortgage. Michigan families deserve energy-efficient homes that help them stay in those homes by reducing their cost of ownership. Study after study shows that families can save thousands of dollars in energy costs during the years they live in an energy-efficient residence. The savings continue for each family that purchases the home. Insurance premiums are also lower for energy-efficient homes.

For many years, Michigan has had a three-year cycle for updates to the state's building code. Again and again, Michigan's choice to update the energy efficiency portion of the code has led to homes made with advanced materials that save consumers energy and money. Taxpayers benefit, too, since the code also covers public structures: It helps avoid wasteful and costly energy losses in state government buildings.

Unfortunately, there is legislation before the House of Representatives, H.B. 4561, that would double the time between updates to Michigan's energy-efficient building code. Under the new, six-year cycle called for under the bill, Michigan's homes and buildings would fall behind in critical technology changes that enhance energy efficiency.

Advanced manufacturing is a key part of Michigan's economy, and continued innovation is vital to our economic future. Energy-efficient products, processes and technologies – some of them created by Michigan's chemistry industry – support jobs and help grow Michigan's economy. And for every job in Michigan's chemistry industry, five jobs are created outside the industry.

We urge you to support Michigan families, energy savings, and lower energy bills and oppose H.B. 4561.

Sincerely,

Michigan Chemistry Council

Dow Chemical
Midland

BASF
Wyandotte

American Chemistry Council

Huntsman
Auburn Hills

Arvron, Inc.
Grand Rapids

Guardian
Auburn Hills

Sika Sarnafil

Atlas Roofing Corp.
Byron Center

De-coding the Myths about Michigan's Energy-Efficient Building Code

Myth #1

Michigan's energy-efficient building code is a new regulation imposed by the federal government.

FACT

Michigan has updated the energy efficiency portion of our state's building code again and again over many years. Michigan officials make decisions about updating the code.

Myth #2

Doubling the time between energy efficiency code updates is good for home owners.

FACT

Energy bills are the second-highest cost of home ownership, next to the mortgage. Michigan families deserve energy-efficient homes that help them stay in those homes by reducing the cost of ownership. Study after study shows that families can save thousands of dollars in energy costs during the years they live in an energy-efficient home. Insurance premiums are also lower. And longer code cycles would mean more extensive (and expensive) changes with each code update.

Myth #3

Delaying updates to the energy efficiency building code will not diminish home energy efficiency.

FACT

Michigan has a three-year cycle for updating the state's building code. Under the new, six-year cycle proposed in legislation before the state House of Representatives (H.B. 4561), Michigan's homes would fall behind in critical technology changes that enhance energy efficiency. Energy-efficient products, processes and technologies are being developed every day – many of them by Michigan's chemistry industry.

Myth #4

Michigan's energy-efficient building code only covers private homes.

FACT

Michigan's code covers public buildings as well as private residences. When state government buildings are more-energy-efficient, taxpayers benefit.

Myth #5

Public safety would not be affected by lengthening the time between building code updates.

FACT

Long ago, Michigan's policymakers decided the building code should be updated every three years to "ensure public safety, health and welfare insofar as they are affected by building construction, through structural strength, adequate egress facilities, sanitary equipment, ventilation and fire safety; and, in general, to secure safety to life and property." Postponing code updates for an additional three years will ignore advances in technology while delaying improvements in public safety.

MICHIGAN’S BUILDING CODE: SAVING HOMEOWNERS ENERGY AND MONEY

Why is Michigan’s energy-efficient building code updated every three years?

Since 1972, Michigan has had a three-year cycle for code updates. Again and again, Michigan’s choice to update the energy efficiency code has led to homes made with advanced materials that save consumers energy and money. Studies show that families can save thousands of dollars in energy costs during the years they live in an energy-efficient home. Insurance premiums are lower, too. Taxpayers save from enhanced energy efficiency in state government buildings.

What change is being proposed? What should lawmakers do?

Legislation pending before the state’s House of Representatives (H.B. 4561) would double the time between updates to Michigan’s building code, which would delay energy efficiency improvements. Under the new, six-year cycle called for under the bill, Michigan’s homes and buildings would fall behind in critical technology changes that enhance energy efficiency. Michigan lawmakers **should oppose H.B. 4561.**

How much can Michigan homeowners save from living in an energy-efficient home? How do these savings compare with the cost of energy efficiency upgrades?

Homeowners’ savings from energy efficiency upgrades far exceed the cost of the upgrades. The savings continue each year. Examples:

Cost Savings from Energy Efficient Home Upgrades

	<u>Annual Cost Savings</u>	<u>Annual Home Energy Savings</u>	<u>Initial Cost</u>	<u>Payback on Investment</u>
<u>High Efficiency Lighting</u>	\$85.50	900 kilowatt hours	\$45	6 months
<u>Reduced Building Air Infiltration</u>	\$104.50	10 MMBTU	\$125	14 months
<u>Reduced Duct Leakage</u>	\$99.28	9.5 MMBTU	\$125	16 months

(SOURCE: U.S. Energy Information Administration)

How do energy-efficient products support Michigan jobs and grow our state’s economy?

Advanced manufacturing is a key part of Michigan’s economy, and continued innovation is vital to our economic future. Energy-efficient products, processes and technologies – some of them created by Michigan’s chemistry industry – support jobs and help grow Michigan’s economy. Companies in Michigan’s chemistry and advanced manufacturing sector provide quality jobs for the people of the Great Lakes State. And for every job in Michigan’s chemistry industry, five jobs are created outside the industry.

How does the 3-year code cycle help protect Michigan’s environment?

Buildings are responsible for 40 percent of the nation’s energy consumption and two-thirds of its electricity use. The energy portion of Michigan’s building code helps ensure that new homes and buildings in the Great Lakes State use the latest energy-efficient materials and technologies, which saves energy, enhances sustainability, and helps protect our environment.